

NEWSLETTER No 2

Winter 2014/15

CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN CHESHIRE



Welcome!

Welcome to this, the second of the newsletters which I am circulating from Churches Together in Cheshire. As before I seek to include both news items and notices of ecumenical activities and events that are taking place within Cheshire, and also information relating more widely to the ecumenical scene across the country. You will find my contact details at the end of this Newsletter, and if you wish any future edition to include reports of what has been happening in your neck of the woods, or to advertise any forthcoming event I would be pleased to hear from you.

Andrew Taylor

Celebrating 50 years of Catholic Ecumenism

Diocese of Northampton Ecumenical Commission

**A Celebration of Ecumenism
50 years after Vatican II**

Rt. Rev. Peter Doyle invites all parishes
and all our ecumenical friends to be represented.

**Wednesday 21st January 2015
7.30pm**

Preacher: Rt. Rev. Bernard Longley
Archbishop of Birmingham

Northampton Cathedral
Kingsthorpe Road NN2 6AG

May they all be one

www.northamptondiocese.org
Follow the links to The Diocese/Diocesan Departments/Ecumenism

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton Ecumenical Commission invites ecumenical guests and friends to join all parishes in the diocese at a 'Celebration of Ecumenism 50years after Vatican II. The invitation is from Rt. Rev. Peter Doyle and the preacher is Rt. Rev. Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th – 25th January, 2015.

I am aware that in many parts of the county churches are coming together to mark and to celebrate this octave. The material for 20125 has been prepared by the churches of Brazil and has been brought together under the title of "The Well is Deep". An Order of service, prayer resources and posters can be found and downloaded from: www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer .

The service for Churches Together in Cheshire is being held at 6.00 pm on Sunday, 25th January at St. Mary's Parish Church, Nantwich, and is hosted by the Nantwich Christian Council. The preacher will be Rt. Revd. Mark Davies, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Shrewsbury. All are welcome. A poster for the event is attached to the newsletter

In 2016 the service returns to Chester Cathedral when, on 24th January, the preacher will be the Revd. Lord Leslie Griffiths.

Agricultural Chaplaincy

Agriculture is a key industry across Cheshire. Over the years it has shaped the county's landscape and supports not only those who directly work on the land but a wide variety of industries that, for example, produce chemical fertilizers, create agricultural engineering, undertake food processing and production, engage in animal welfare and feed preparation, as well as related building construction. It also produces the food we buy and is crucial to food retailers and supermarkets. It is big business.

Over the years farming has become more and more specialised, and the pressure on farmers has grown enormously. Farming can be an isolated occupation for the families involved and requires physical stamina and hence continued good physical and mental health. Global trading conditions, climate vagaries, complex government requirements, animal health concerns (such as foot and mouth disease, bovine TB or avian flu), financial pressures, all contribute to the stress under which farmers and their families operate. It is not surprising that at times a friendly and loving service of practical and spiritual help and support is required.

The Agricultural Chaplaincy service seeks to show Christ to those in need and was started in Cheshire, initially as a one man operation, by Keith Ineson, himself from a farming background, with the support of the Salvation Army. It has now grown to a team of 14, still headed up by Keith, and, since 2007, working under the auspices of Churches Together in Cheshire. It is a model of Agricultural Chaplaincy that is

now being examined by other areas with a view to being adopted in other parts of the country. The team works with up to 200 farming families each year, and is a regular presence at weekly farming markets and other significant events within the farming calendar. In 2010 a specialist gay farmers helpline was established and this has attracted growing numbers of those seeking its confidential support.

The Agricultural Chaplains offer a supportive, guiding and confidential facility to those requiring help in times of difficulty, which can be:

- Illness
- Bereavement
- Tenancy issues
- Personal problems
- Financial problems
- Compliance difficulties
- Access to other sources of help

Keith offers these anonymised and disguised examples of situations in which the chaplaincy has been able to help:

There was a husband and wife with no children. The farm was tenanted and he was terminally ill. The business was not doing well and hadn't been making profits for several years, so there were no savings. It was obvious that they needed to leave the farm. I visited regularly and arranged for one of the charities. I work with to provide a house in a neighbouring village. Another charity checked on state benefits to ensure that they were getting all the necessary help that was available. I visited him regularly at home, later on in the hospital and finally in the hospice. When he died I had the privilege of conducting his funeral. Care was then needed for his widow and there was constant pastoral help. She is now settled in the new house and working well in the village being a member of

various organisations and committees. Things haven't worked out in the way that she would have liked but things are a great deal better than they could have been.

“Clive is a farmer's son, and enjoyed nothing more, when he was a youngster, than going around the fields with his father at night checking the stock and the snares etc. As he was beginning to grow up. He was out with his father one evening when they found a car in the gateway. A hosepipe was connected from the exhaust to the interior of the car and the engine was running. Clive's father smashed the window and dragged the man out of the car. He was still alive. At the subsequent inquiry it turned out that the man was gay and could not cope with the situation so was trying to kill himself. Clive's father said that if he had known he would have left him to die. Clive grew up in the belief that if his father ever discovered that he was gay and he were in that situation, his father would leave him to die. Obviously it was very unlikely that this would be the case, though Clive didn't look at it that way. He lived with this knowledge for over 40 years before he told me the story and admitted that he was gay. “

“I was called in where a very successful farmer was suffering with deep depression. When I arrived at the farm he was curled up in the corner of the sitting-room in the foetal position. He didn't want talk and was extremely emotional. In this case there were no financial problems but the pressure of making certain that the farm stayed viable had taken its toll. I sat on the floor at the side of him and eventually we talked. He finally agreed to accept medical help and spent some time in hospital. I visited him there and continued to visit him when he came home. With the help of the community mental health team and a very good and loving family he recovered and again is in control of the farm and his life.”

One farmer wrote to 'Farmers' Weekly' about the support he had received:

“One night when I was so low that I could have ended it all I picked up the phone. From that moment on things began to change. He came to see me the next day and called in regularly over the next couple of years. He was at the end of the phone 24 hours a day if required and believe me, I used it”

Farming is the most dangerous occupation in the country and is most vulnerable to suicide and depression. The Chaplaincy makes no charge for its services, but costs about £70,000 to run each year. It's income is drawn from contributions from the major denominations, from health trusts and local authorities, and from donations by individual churches, e.g. at harvest services. Increasingly agricultural businesses, recognising their debt to a healthy farming community have responded generously to a new sponsoring scheme that has been established. For individuals there is a Supporters scheme, and more information on these schemes and on the work of the Chaplaincy in general can be found on their website: www.agchap.co.uk You might also like to join the Chaplains and others from the farming community at their carol service being held on Thursday, 4th December at Chelford Market at 8.00 pm.

Salt of the Earth

The Salt of the Earth network has the following events planned for 2015:

Network Meeting 5th February ,2015 .

Speaker: John Eldridge

10,000 hrs to Mastery: training for young craftsmen at Cammell Laird

Venue: Cammell Laird, Birkenhead

Salt Sunday on 17th May , 2015

Reaseheath Agricultural College, Nantwich
Brine to Beef

Network Meeting, 2nd July, 2015

Speaker: John Weaver

Science & Faith: myths, conflicts and the reasonableness of belief

Venue to be confirmed

Network Meeting 17th November, 2015

Paul Treloar

From particle accelerator to accelerated economic impact

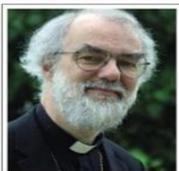
Further details will be circulated nearer the time, or for more information contact Henry Ratter:

E: ratterh@aol.com T: 01244 380827

Romero and the Ecumenical Future

Archbishop Romero Lecture 2014

The Archbishop Romero Trust



Lord Rowan Williams

(former Archbishop of Canterbury)

will deliver the
2014 Archbishop Romero
Memorial Lecture

*'A saint for the whole people of God:
Romero and the ecumenical future'*

Friday December 12th
at 7.00pm

St Chad's Cathedral,
Birmingham B4 6EU.

Hosted by Archbishop Bernard Longley.

All welcome



contact: romerotrust@btinternet.com website: www.romerotrust.org.uk

Lord Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury) will deliver the 2014 Archbishop Romero Memorial Lecture:

A saint for the whole people of God: Romero and the ecumenical future.

Friday 12 December at 7.00pm
at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham B4
6EU.

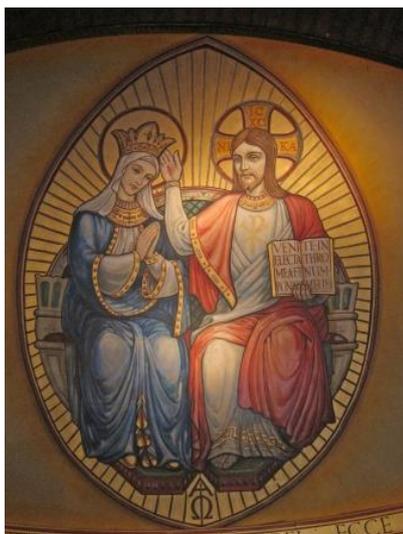
Night Shelter IMPACT report 2013/4



Ahead of the start of the Winter Shelter season, during which several Churches Together groups in Cheshire are planning to operate shelters, Housing Justice has launched a new report which shows the impact that the network of Church and Community Night Shelters is having on homelessness.

The Night Shelter IMPACT Report 2013/14 gathers together more comprehensive data than ever before on how many churches and volunteers are responding to rising homelessness in their community, as well as how many people are being helped off the streets.

Ecumenical Marian Pilgrimage



The 2015 Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place from Tuesday 17th to Friday 20th March 2015.

Accommodation (full board) is at the Anglican Shrine. For further information go to:

www.ecumenicalmarianpilgrimage.org.uk

Germinate



Addressing the 'Germinate!' rural mission and ministry conference on 11th October The Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, called on rural church leaders to be 'brave' and 'radical', particularly with reference to shared leadership. Several "Germinate" initiatives are already being offered or are being developed for rural churches, including a leadership programme, learning communities and a rural business start-up

initiative.

[Conference presentations, transcripts and hand-outs are available from the 'Germinate' Website](#)

Christian Aid

Becky Hurst, the Regional Co-ordinator for Cheshire would be pleased to talk to churches and church groups about the current work of Christian Aid. Becky has herself recently returned from a visit to projects in Ethiopia. She can be contacted on: 01925 582 829 or by e-mail at BHurst@christian-aid.org.

Becky will be providing a fuller report for the next Newsletter which will be sent out in March 2015.

Christmas....

...is coming!

I take this opportunity to proffer all appropriate seasonal greetings to churches, Churches Together groups and other Christian networks. May you know joy and peace this Christmas and may the coming year be a time of fruitful endeavour for the Kingdom.

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